

REMARKS

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

- 5 Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102

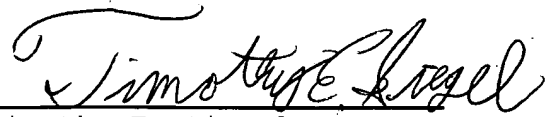
- 10 With respect to claims 13 and 14, applicant submits that
reference number 306 of FIG. 3B of Lin does not show a
trench, as posited by the PTO, but rather a via, as
stated in the text of Lin. Accordingly, the result is not
a "vertical planar conductive feature" (emphasis added)
as recited in paragraph (b) of claim 13, but rather a
15 plated via, something already common in the art. This is
an important distinction, because a vertical planar
conductive feature can serve a connective function
between features on different levels of a multilevel
circuit, in a manner that can not be achieved by
20 currently available technology, which includes the use of
plated vias. For example, in some instances insufficient
real estate is available to route a trace having
horizontal width, but a vertical trace (i.e. a vertical
planar conductive feature) could be used. Claim 14 is
25 patentably distinct over the prior art because it depends
on claim 13, which is patentably distinct over the prior
art.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now
in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early
notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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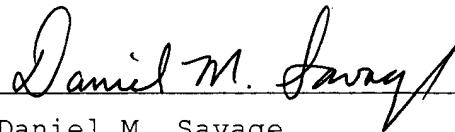
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Daniel M. Savage